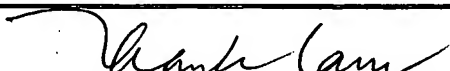


| Substitute for Form 1449/PTO   |                       |                 |  | Complete if Known              |  |  |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|--|--------------------------------|--|--|
| <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br/>STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b><br><i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i> |                       |                 |  | Application Number             | 10/667,017   |  |
|  |                       |                 |  | Filing Date                    | September 17, 2003                                 |  |
|  |                       |                 |  | First Named Inventor:          | Ralf Schmid  |  |
|  |                       |                 |  | Art Unit                       | 2834   |  |
|  |                       |                 |  | Examiner Name                  | Not Yet Assigned                                   |  |
|  |                       |                 |  | Attorney Docket Number         | 003375.P018  |  |
| Sheet  | 1                     | of              |  | 1                              |  |  |
| <b>U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS</b>   |                       |                 |  |                                |  |  |
| Examiner<br>Initials*  | Cite No. <sup>1</sup> | Document Number |  | Publication Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns, Lines,<br>Where Relevant Passages<br>or Relevant Figures<br>Appear |
|  |                       |                 | Number-Kind Code <sup>2</sup> (if known) |                                |  |  |
| TL   |                       | US-             | 4,754,207                                | 06-28-1988                     | Heidelberg, et al.                                 |  |
|  |                       | US-             | 5,491,370                                | 02-13-1996                     | Schneider, et al.                                  |  |
|  |                       | US-             | 6,097,127                                | 08-01-2000                     | Rivera   |  |
|  |                       | US-             | 6,177,734 B1                             | 01-23-2001                     | Masberg, et al.                                    |  |
|  |                       | US-             | 6,279,336 B1                             | 08-28-2001                     | Grundl, et al.                                     |  |
| TL   |                       | US-             | 2001/0021115 A1                          | 09-13-2001                     | Grundl, et al.                                     |  |
|  |                       | US-             |  |                                |  |  |
|  |                       | US-             |  |                                |  |  |
|  |                       | US-             |  |                                |  |  |
|  |                       | US-             |  |                                |  |  |
|  |                       | US-             |  |                                |  |  |

| FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS |                          |                           |  |                                   |  |  |                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|--|--|----------------|
| Examiner<br>Initials*    | Cite<br>No. <sup>1</sup> | Foreign Patent Document   |  | Publication<br>Date<br>MM-DD-YYYY | Name of Patentee or<br>Applicant of Cited Document | Pages, Columns,<br>Lines, Where Relevant<br>Passages or Relevant<br>Figures Appear | T <sup>6</sup> |
|                          |                          | Country Code <sup>3</sup> | Number <sup>4</sup> Kind Code <sup>5</sup><br>(if known) |                                   |  |  |                |
| TL                       |                          | DE                        | 44 22 622 A1   | 01-25-1996                        | Piller-GmbH  |  |                |
|                          |                          | DE                        | 100 55 750 A1  | 12-06-2001                        | Cont. ISAD Electronic Systems                      |  |                |
|                          |                          | DE                        | 197 13 984 A1  | 10-08-1998                        | Grundl und Hoffmann GmbH                           |  |                |
|                          |                          | DE                        | 198 26 731 A1  | 12-23-1999                        | Grundl und Hoffmann GmbH                           |  |                |
|                          |                          | DE                        | 199 45 368 A1  | 03-29-2001                        | Volkswagen AG                                      |  |                |
|                          |                          | JP                        | 09-331694  | 12-22-1997                        | Toshiba Corp.                                      |  |                |
|                          |                          | UK                        | 1 207 666  | 10-07-1970                        | Skil Corporation                                   |  |                |
|                          |                          | WO                        | 97/08456   | 03-06-1997                        | Clouth Gummiwerke AG                               |  |                |
| TL                       |                          | WO                        | 01/95461 A1  | 12-13-2001                        | Cont. ISAD Electronic Systems                      |  |                |

|                       |   |                 |        |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|--------|
| Examiner<br>Signature |  | Date Considered | 1/5/05 |
|-----------------------|---|-----------------|--------|

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup>Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup>See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup>Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup>For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup>Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. <sup>6</sup>Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SENT FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS.  
SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.